

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

AUGUSTA DIVISION

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ALFONSO ALVEREZ BANDA, |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | CV 113-070 |
| |) | (Formerly CR 109-133) |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

ORDER

After a careful, *de novo* review of the file, the Court concurs with the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, to which objections have been filed (doc. no. 14). Accordingly, the Court **ADOPTS** the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge as its opinion, and therefore **DENIES** without an evidentiary hearing Petitioner's motion filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.¹

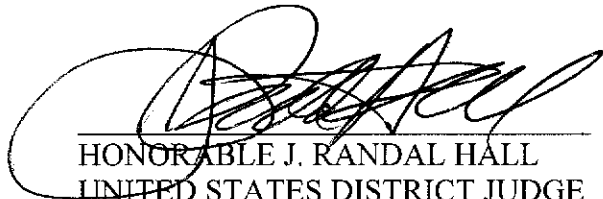
Further, a federal prisoner must obtain a certificate of appealability ("COA") before appealing the denial of his motion to vacate. This Court "must issue or deny a

¹Petitioner's request for appointment of counsel in his objections is likewise **DENIED**. (Doc. no. 14, p. 4.) There is no automatic constitutional right to counsel in habeas proceedings. See Pennsylvania v. Finley, 481 U.S. 551, 555 (1987); U.S. v. Webb, 565 F.3d 789, 794 (11th Cir. 2009) (*per curiam*) (citing Barbour v. Haley, 471 F.3d 1222, 1227 (11th Cir. 2006)). Rather, appointment of counsel is "a privilege that is justified only by exceptional circumstances[.]" McCall v. Cook, 495 F. App'x 29, 31 (11th Cir. 2012) (*per curiam*). In light of the Magistrate Judge's thorough analysis and recommendation that the § 2255 motion be denied, a recommendation which is adopted herein as the opinion of the Court, there are no exceptional circumstances warranting the requested appointment.

certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant.” Rule 11(a) to the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings. This Court should grant a COA only if the prisoner makes a “substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). For the reasons set forth in the Report and Recommendation, and in consideration of the standards enunciated in Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 482-84 (2000), Petitioner has failed to make the requisite showing. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** a COA in this case.² Moreover, because there are no non-frivolous issues to raise on appeal, an appeal would not be taken in good faith. Accordingly, Petitioner is not entitled to appeal *in forma pauperis*. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3).

Upon the foregoing, the Court **CLOSES** this civil action and **DIRECTS** the Clerk to enter final judgment in favor of Respondent.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of July, 2014, at Augusta, Georgia.


HONORABLE J. RANDAL HALL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

²“If the court denies a certificate, a party may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22.” Rule 11(a) to the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings.